


REMARKS

At the time of the Action, Claims 24-38, 46, and 69-158 were pending. Claims 73-122 and 149-158 have been allowed. Claims 72 and 142 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claims. The remaining claims have been rejected under either Section 102(e) or Section 103(a).

Applicants have deleted all claims that were rejected or objected to, leaving only allowed Claims 73-122 and 149-158 remaining in the application. As all of the remaining claims have been allowed, Applicants request that the rejections under Sections 102(e) and 103(a) and the objections be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as all of the outstanding issues raised in the Action have been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that it be passed to allowance and issue.

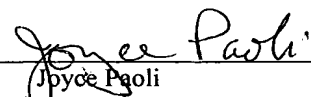
Respectfully submitted,


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